

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson et al. )  
Application No.: not yet assigned )  
Continuation of Serial No. 09/872,905 )  
Filed: June 1, 2001 )  
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE ) July 21, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully submit the following:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the first line of the specification after the title, and insert the following:

--Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/872,905, filed on June 1, 2001, entitled "Tissue Distraction Device" in the name of the same inventors, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/274,372, filed on March 8, 2001. --

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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